



**CITY COUNCIL**  
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

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## **MINUTES**

### **AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT TASK FORCE MEETING**

**MONDAY, JULY 7, 2008**

The Agricultural Development Task Force held a meeting on Monday, July 7, 2008, at 1:03 p.m. in the Council Committee Meeting Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Room 205, Honolulu Hale, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Yuki Kitagawa (Chair)  
Dean Okimoto (Vice Chair)  
Charley Ice  
Cal Lum  
Jimmy Nakatani  
Kapu Smith

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:** Richard McCormack

**ADMINISTRATION/OTHERS PRESENT:**

Ikaika Anderson	(Council Chair Marshall's Office)
Kimberly Ribellia	(Councilmember Dela Cruz's staff)
Michael Sakata	(Councilmember Dela Cruz's staff)
Lisa Schofield	[Oahu Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) / Oahu Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D)]
Kevin Kinvig	[United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)]
John McHugh	(West Oahu SWCD)
David Santistevan	[Laulima Eco-Friendly Alliance of Farms (LEAF) Project Oahu]
Marcus Oshiro	(State Representative)
Lea Hong	(The Trust for Public Lands)
Bill Paty	(MA Robinson Trust)
Michael Magaoay	(State Representative)
Mark Takemoto	(Dole/Castle & Cooke)
David Arakawa	[Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii (LURF)]

## AGENDA ITEMS

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the June 2, 2008, meeting were approved as circulated.

### ITEM 2      LAULIMA ECO-FRIENDLY ALLIANCE OF FARMS (LEAF) PROJECT

David Santistevan, Executive Director of LEAF Project made a presentation on his organization. He explained LEAF's motto is to help solve hunger, one garden, one farm and one community at a time. The program's core value is based on the native Hawaiian ahupua'a as a sustainable model from which everyone benefits. The agricultural industry through self-sufficient communities with thriving food systems utilizing natural resources would be strengthened.

Mr. Santistevan briefly described elements in creating thriving food systems:

- 1      Educating the public on how to become healthier in their diets
2.      Targeting at risk populations and offering them horticulture training through community partners of technical advisors.
3.      Examining through ethno botany how different cultures survived by using their natural resources.
4.      Planning urban gardens and farms where population is greatest.
- 5      Earning income through food related micro enterprises.

Mr. Santistevan concluded by stressing that above profit should be "people and place" and the importance of closing the gap between the rich and poor so that everyone has access to fresh food. The goal of LEAF is to create a working task force to empower conferees to implement the best food initiatives for the community.

Mr. Santistevan distributed a brochure inviting everyone to the upcoming "Creating Sustainable Food Systems Conference – Closing Hawaii's Food Gap - Solving Hunger one Ahupua'a at a Time" on July 31, 2008.

Related communication:

M-1560 LEAF Project Hawaii, July 31, 2008 Conference flier.

ITEM 3 OAHU RESOURCE CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Chair Kitagawa called upon Kevin Kinvig of the US Department of Agriculture (USDA), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Lisa Schofield of the Oahu Resource Conservation & Development Council (Oahu RC&D) to give an update on funding.

Mr. Kinvig informed that through matching funds, the City's \$40,000 multiplies to approximately \$100,000. If the City could provide a larger amount of seed money, then matching funds from other government agencies could increase their budget and more planners could be hired. Additional funds and planners could: 1) further increase the amount of federal funds and technical resources, 2) reach more farmers, and 3) place more conservation on the ground. Federal funds are available for rural and business development, and entrepreneurial training, as well as, investments in the agricultural and rural sector, but if unused the monies leave Hawaii to fund projects in other states.

In response to Member Okimoto's inquiry of how a stronger partnership would benefit the City, Mr. Kinvig noted that the SWCD districts provide a service to the City, that in lieu of a grading and grubbing permit, a conservation plan developed with a SWCD planner or a NRCS planner could be utilized rather than City regulations. There would be a cost saving to the City because there would not be the need for City staff to enforce regulations to protect the waters and to keep soil resources healthy. The technical assistance provided is free to farmers and ranchers.

Chair Kitagawa reported that he was advised that a Charter amendment would be required in order to use real property tax monies from vacant agriculture lands as a source of funding. Therefore the Ag Task Force will not be pursuing the suggestion at this time.

Chair Kitagawa pointed out that there appeared to be some confusion as whether the program was under the jurisdiction of the State or the County. In response, Mr. Kinvig stated that he was looking to the Task

Force to assist in clarifying the situation by continued dialogue in order to move the project forward.

In response to questions posed regarding conservation plans and violations, Mr. Kinvig noted there is no database on farmers who were in violation of not obtaining a grading/grubbing permit. In his opinion, only a small percentage of farmers may be in violation. He also noted that few farmers apply for conservation plans due to commitments to their farming business and family life.

Chair Kitagawa and Mr. Kinvig will continue the dialogue to discuss what the next steps could be.

Related communications:

D-623            Real Property Tax Evaluation for Fiscal Year 2008-2009

M-1562        Oahu Resource Conservation Development Council  
transmitting EQIP funding in Hawaii for 2001-2008.

At this juncture Chair Kitagawa requested taking up Item 5 prior to Item 4. No objection from the members was noted.

ITEM 5        GALBRAITH ESTATE LAND

Chair Kitagawa informed that Councilmember Dela Cruz introduced Resolution 08-142 urging the Administration to support the effort to acquire and protect lands currently owned by the George Galbraith Estate.

Chair Kitagawa noted that he had requested assistance and information from those who are familiar with this issue of placing the Galbraith Estate Land into a private public partnership. Representative Marcus Oshiro, Lea Hong of The Trust for Public Lands, Bill Paty and Representative Michael Magaoay were present to address this topic.

Highlights of the discussion:

1. House Bill 2293, authorizing the AgriBusiness Development Corporation to work with private parties to acquire the Galbraith Lands, becomes law at midnight on July 8, 2008.
2. The Canadian Developer, Dennis Blaine, fell out of contract.
3. Bank of Hawaii has retained Skippy Schuman of the real estate brokerage firm PM Realty to market the property.
4. The Trust for Public Lands and The US Army Garrison Hawaii have been working with Representative Oshiro on funding.
5. The Office of Hawaiian Affairs is interested in protecting Kukani Loko located in the middle of the property.
6. Councilmember Dela Cruz has proposed Resolution 08-142 to allocate monies from the Clean Water and Natural Lands fund for potential purchase of the property.
7. PM Realty will be contacting Representative Oshiro to discuss the Bill and the sentiment of the community.
8. Interest has been expressed for the establishment of a dairy operation on the Galbraith Lands.
9. Representative Oshiro believes the dam and spillway area will be gifted to the state.
10. The State Senate President and the State Speaker of the House will appoint a negotiating team.
11. There was a suggestion of designating the lands as Important Agricultural Lands (IAL).
12. Currently, The Trust for Public Lands is spearheading the negotiations and is optimistic that the appointed negotiating committee will request The Trust's continued support due to their long-standing contact with those involved.

13. The normal practice of putting leases out to bid will be followed if the State acquires the land.
14. The Ag Task Force will write a letter to the Clean Water and Natural Lands Commission and the City Council recommending funding for the purchase of the Galbraith lands.
15. Mr. Paty and Representative Magaoay see this as an excellent opportunity to keep the North Shore in Ag because the State, City and private entities are all working together to make it happen.

Related communication:

M-1561 Representative Marcus Oshiro transmitting a briefing paper on the proposed purchase of the Galbraith lands.

#### ITEM 5 SUBDIVISION OF AGRICULTURAL LANDS

Chair Kitagawa informed that he placed the issue of the Subdivision of Agricultural Lands on the agenda in response to requests to have an evening community meeting to obtain ideas and suggestions from the farming community.

It was unanimously agreed that an evening community meeting would be conducted on Wednesday, August 13, 2008, 6:00 P.M., at the Pearl City Urban Garden Center.

Chair Kitagawa requested Mr. David Arakawa's attendance at the meeting to convey the Land Use Research Foundation's point of view on the issue.

#### SUNSHINE ITEM

Chair Kitagawa stated that Member Lum urgently requested that the issue of the closure of the Oahu Livestock Slaughter Plant be placed on the agenda. The Chair called for a motion, pursuant to HRS, Section 92-7, the Sunshine Law, to add the item to the agenda. All members present unanimously approved it.

ITEM 6      CLOSURE OF OAHU LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER PLANT

Member Lum informed that he received official notice that the last day of business for the slaughter plant is July 31, 2008 because of Co-op's continued business losses.

Member Lum reported:

1. Meetings with the Department of Agriculture (DOA) to negotiate funding for a mobile slaughter unit.
2. That the price of the mobile slaughter unit is increasing and if an order is placed now it could be delivered by October.
3. That Councilmember Dela Cruz drafted a resolution, which supports negotiating an agreement between the DOA and the Slaughter Plant Co-op to extend the closure of the operations for another three months to allow time to secure a loan for the mobile unit.
4. An option Member Lum is considering is to personally purchase the mobile unit and turn it over to the Oahu Cattlemen's Association to handle the operations.
5. Communication with the Co-op to extend the closure date has not been successful.

The Task Force offered the following ideas:

1. Defer co-op's loan payments for 6 months or forgiving loan.
2. Negotiate property taxes due to the City.
3. Pose the issue of the health and safety to the public.

Chair Kitagawa will write a letter in support of the proposed Resolution by Councilmember Dela Cruz to request help from the DOA to keep the cattle industry alive.

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#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next meeting is on August 13, 2008, 6:00 P.M., at the Pearl City Urban Garden Center.

#### ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:33 p.m.